

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4333

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

112 N. Howard Street

historic

Howard Street Jewelers

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 112 N. Howard Street

___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

___ vicinity of

congressional district Seventh

state Maryland

county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category

___ district
☒ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership

___ public
☒ private
___ both
Public Acquisition
___ in process
___ being considered
☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
___ unoccupied
___ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
___ yes: unrestricted
___ no

Present Use

___ agriculture
☒ commercial
___ educational
___ entertainment
___ government
___ industrial
___ military
___ museum
___ park
___ private residence
___ religious
___ scientific
___ transportation
___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Julius and Lore W. Levi

street & number 112 N. Howard Street

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code MD 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

CWM4085

liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610

397

city, town Baltimore

folio

state

MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4333

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1850-1860 commercial building is four stories high and three bays wide. The brick stretcher bond building faces east on N. Howard and abuts two partywall structures. The facade originally was enriched only by the decreasing size of the windows as the stories rise, and by the cornice and stone sills that contrast with the pressed brick with tight mortar joints. A circa 1940s storefront on the first story presents an embellished facade. The street frontage is 20'6" and the depth is 64'6".

The first story was substantially altered in the 1930s-1940s. The middle bay is deeply recessed and contains the glazed door and transom. Four steel posts positioned across the facade support the upper stories. Asymmetrical display cases set on recessed plinths flank the entrance. The foundations of the display cases are covered with ruby vitrolite panels. The display case to the south is set on a rectangular plinth; the projecting display case has rounded corners. The display case to the north is set on a four-sided, bowed plinth; the projecting display case follows the same four-sided bow. The glass panes are set in molded metal surrounds. A fabric awning is suspended over the first story.

The second, third, and fourth stories are stacked versions of one another. The height of the windows decreases as the building rises. The second story windows are extremely elongated. Three windows with brick splayed jack arches and stone sill are evenly spaced on each story.

The projecting cornice has four evenly spaced scrolled L-brackets with shell pendants that divide the cornice into bays. Smaller scrolled brackets are spaced between the large L-brackets. Two stringcourses of raised molding run between the L-brackets.

The north wall is blank. The south wall has one 1/1 sash window on the third story and blocked window on the second. From the north side the stepped profile of the four-story front and three-story back is visible. Both sections have shed roofs.

The west wall faces the alley (State Street). It is three bays wide and only three stories high. The first story has been altered. It contains a new window in the first (north) bay, a new door in the second, and a larger window in the third. All the openings have brick splayed jack arches. The window in the first bay has a sill below; the owner says this was once a water trough and not a door. The second story has a 6/6 sash window in the second bay and a small window in the third. The third story is only two bays wide, with a notched corner obliterating the third bay. A sash window is located off center in the second bay.

The interior is finished with wallboard and acoustic tile ceiling.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4333

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1860, c. 1940 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The architectural design of this four-story, three-bay building is a good example of a circa 1860 two-part commercial block. The first story would have been used for sales or display area and the upper stories would have been used as offices or light manufacturing areas. The single entrance with rear stair hall indicates that the building was constructed for one tenant with multiple operations. The facade is trimmed with lintels of simple brick splayed jack arches and an ornate, bracketed cornice that are typical of the mid-Victorian period. The overall design, however, is one of a relatively unembellished, spare commercial building whose owner's financial returns were invested in the business, not the building.

The building's style and massing are representative of several mid-century, four-story, two-part commercial blocks found on the mid and upper blocks of N. Howard and on the cross street of W. Saratoga Street. This particular example is notable for the severity of its facade, embellished only by the cornice.

This building is part of a mixed three- and four-story block, reflecting the changing nature of land values between upper N. Howard (with two- and three-story buildings) and lower N. Howard Street (with four- and five-story buildings). The narrow street frontage and tall height of the building reveals the economic competition for lots along N. Howard Street.

The late Art Deco alterations on the first story are an excellent example of a high-style commercial storefront. The recessed facade, typical of the period, is embellished by projecting display cases on raised, ruby vitrolite-faced plinths. The vitrolite panels are typical of the streamlined phase of Art Deco design where the emphasis is on reflective, smooth wall surfaces. In this example, however, the display cases are unlike any others in the commercial district: the bullnosed and polygonal profiles are unique. The circa 1940 first-story facade is representative of one of last periods of commercial vitality for the street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4333

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture (Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

Diane Shaw

name/title	C.H.A.P., Room 1037	date	August 12, 1991
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organization	417 E. Fayette Street	date	(301) 396-4866
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street & number	Baltimore	telephone	MD
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city or town		state	
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transistion, 1815-1870
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

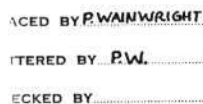
Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

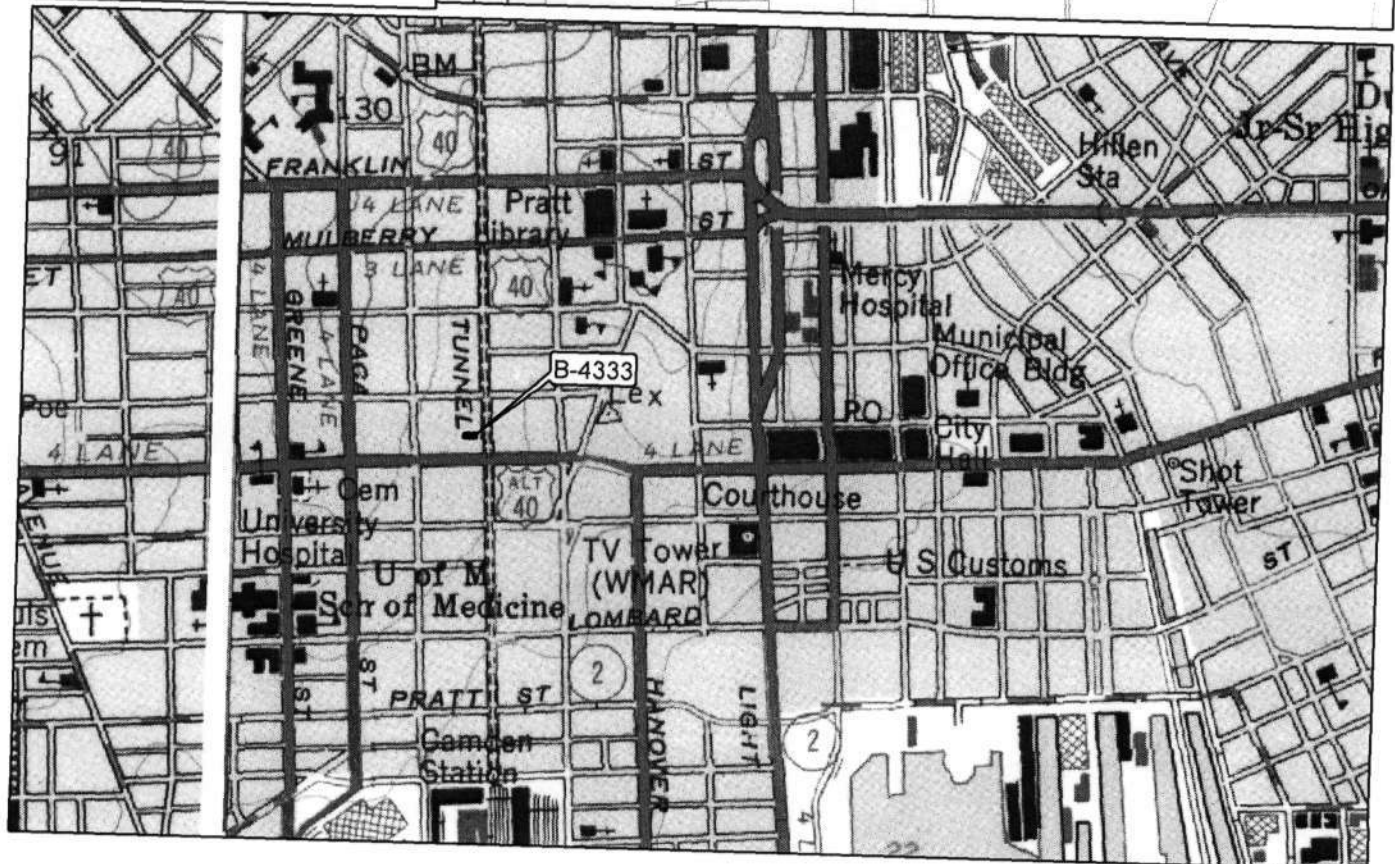
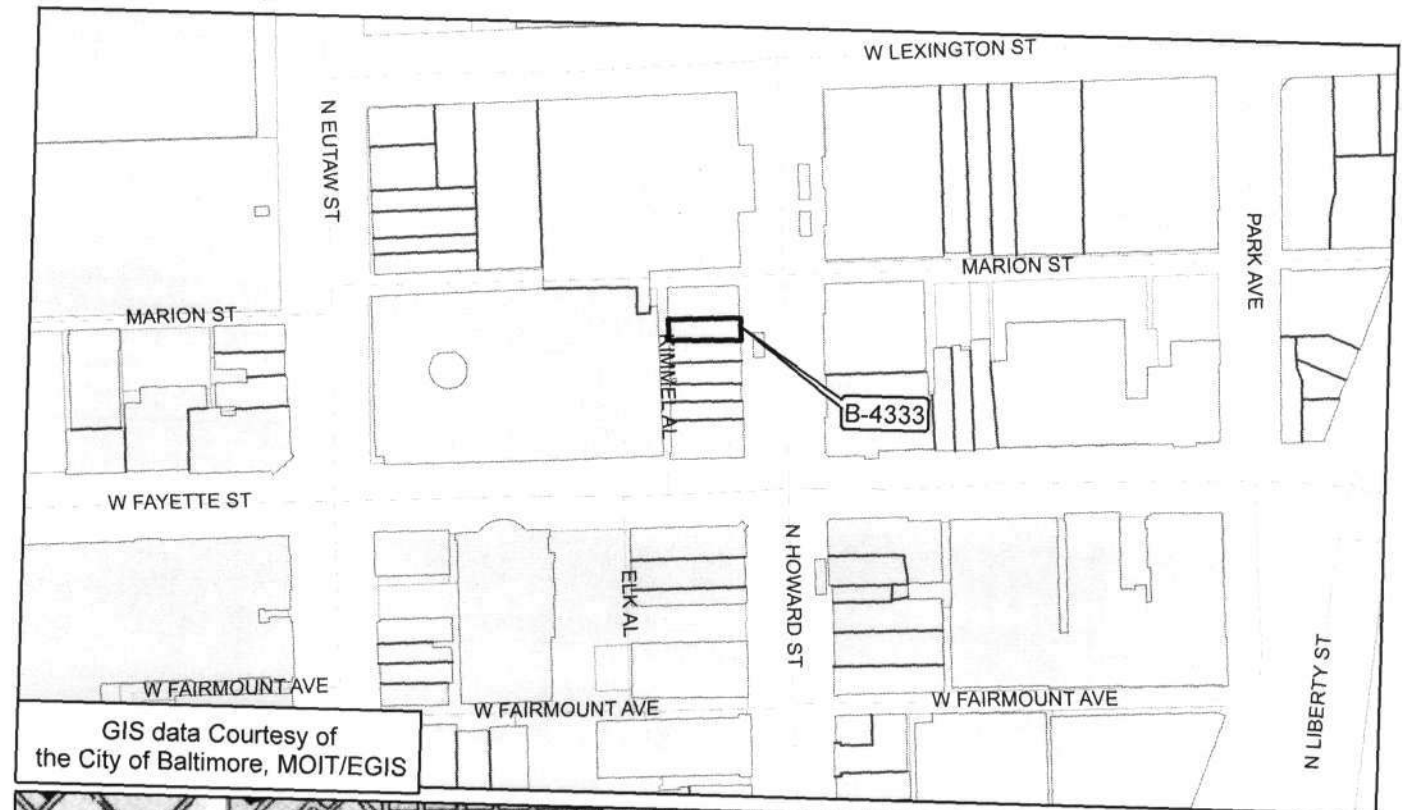
Historic Function and Use:
Commercial/Manufacturing

Known Design Source:
None



SCALE 1"=50'-0" DATE DEC. 1966

B-4333
Howard Street Jewelers
112 N. Howard Street
Block 0619, Lot 029
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4333

112 N Howard St

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, east elevation

1/3

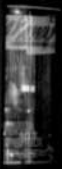
HOWARD STREET JEWELERS
JEWELRY - FURNITURE **112**

112

HOWARD STREET JEWELERS

112

HOWARD STREET JEWELERS
A Division of Howard Street Jewelry Co.



HOWARD STREET JEWELERS
A Division of Howard Street Jewelry Co.



HOWARD STREET JEWELERS
A Division of Howard Street Jewelry Co.



8-4333

112 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, detail

2/3



B-4333

112 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPD

Rear alley, west elevation
112 in foreground

3/3